



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

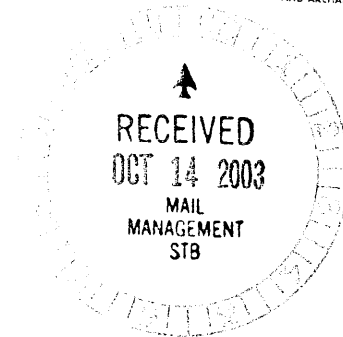
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767-309
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Frank O'Bannon, Governor
John Goss, Director



September 17, 2003

Stephanie M. Lemmon
CSX Transportation
500 Water Street, J200
Jacksonville, Florida 32202



AB-55-695X

Federal Agency: Surface Transportation Board ("STB")

Re: Abandonment of approximately 32.97 miles of rail line (AB-55 [Sub-no. 643X])

Dear Ms. Lemmon:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated August 18, 2003, and received on August 22, 2003, for the above indicated project from Lacrosse to Wellsboro, through Dewey, Hanna, and Noble townships, in LaPorte County, and from North Judson in Starke County to Malden, Morgan Township, in Porter County, Indiana.

Based upon the documentation available to the staff of the Indiana SHPO, we have not identified any archaeological resources listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places within the probable area of potential effects.

In regard to buildings and structures, we have identified the following properties within the probable area of potential effects, and we believe that they meet the criteria of eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places due to their historical and architectural significance:

Toad Hall, the English Lake 1870 Gun Club, on Bigler Road (Site #091-192-11512 per the *LaPorte County Interim Report*) for its association with recreation in the township during the late 19th Century and early 20th Century.

The La Crosse High School at 11 North Michigan Street (Site #091-330-11608) for its association with education in La Crosse during the early 20th Century.

The Marathon Gas Station on North Washington Street (Site #091-330-11611) is an outstanding example of the mid-20th Century service station.

However, based on the information provided to our office, we believe that there will not be any alterations to the characteristics of the above identified historic properties qualifying them for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register (*see* 36 C.F.R. § 800.16[i]).

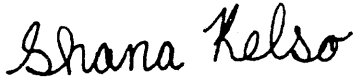
Upon completing its own identification and evaluation efforts, it would be appropriate for the STB to analyze the information that has been gathered from the Indiana SHPO, the general public, and any other consulting parties and make the necessary determinations and findings. Refer to the following comments for guidance:

- 1) If the STB believes that a determination of "no historic properties affected" accurately reflects its assessment, then it shall provide documentation of its finding as set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11 to the Indiana SHPO, notify all consulting parties, and make the documentation available for public inspection (36 C.F.R. §§ 800.4[d][1] and 800.2[d][2]).
- 2) If, on the other hand, the STB finds that an historic property may be affected, then it shall notify the Indiana SHPO, the public and all consulting parties of its finding and seek views on effects in

accordance with 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.4(d)(2) and 800.2(d)(2). Thereafter, the STB may proceed to apply the criteria of adverse effect and determine whether the project will result in a "no adverse effect" or an "adverse effect" in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.5.

We look forward to receiving notice of the STB's findings. *A copy of the revised 36 C.F.R. Part 800 that went into effect on January 11, 2001, may be found on the Internet at www.achp.gov for your reference.* If you have questions about our comments, please call Shana Kelso of our office at (317) 232-1646.

Very truly yours,



For: Jon C. Smith
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JCS:JAM:SNK:snk

cc: Elaine K. Kaiser, Surface Transportation Board